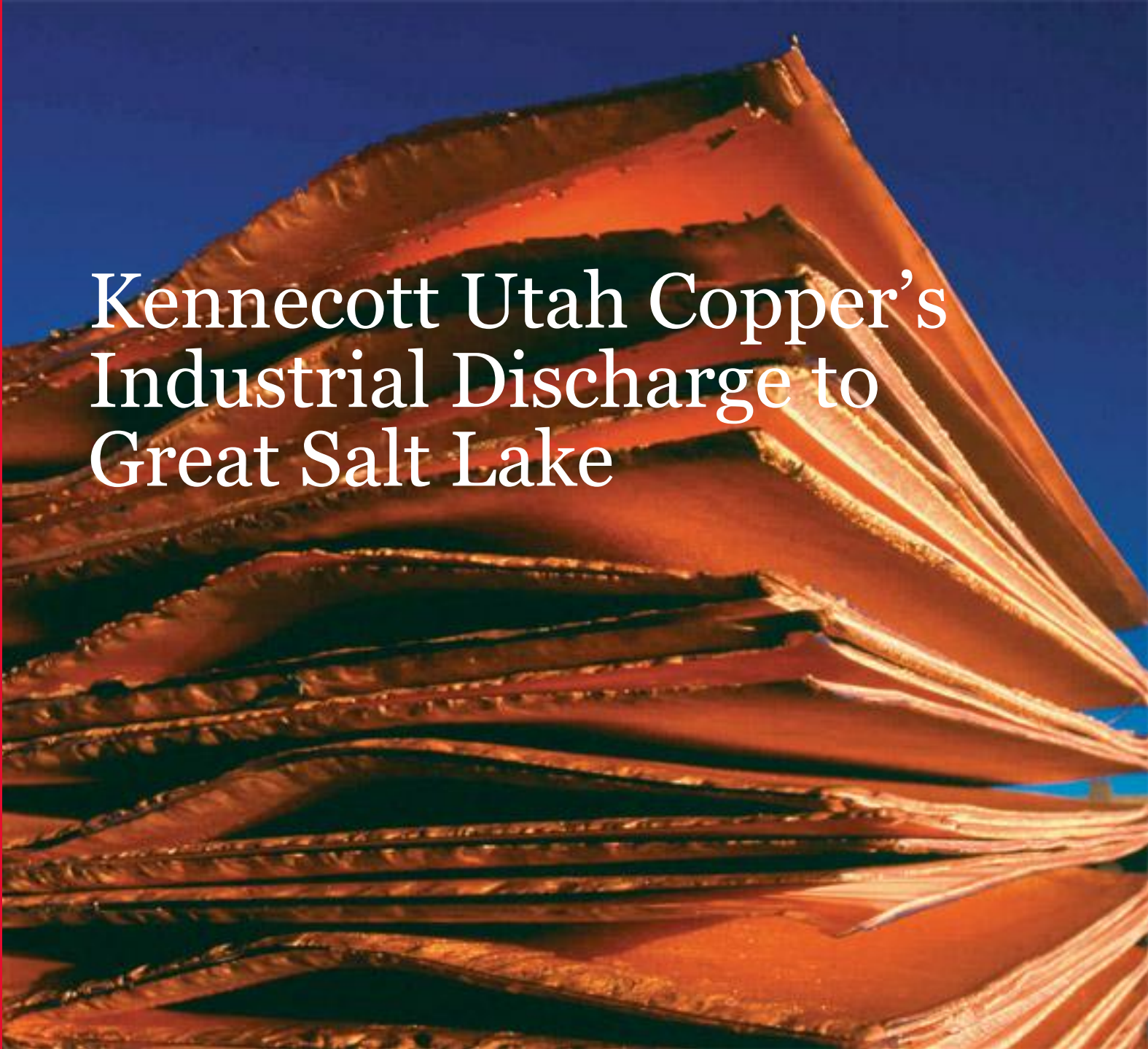


# Rio Tinto

Kennecott Utah Copper's  
Industrial Discharge to  
Great Salt Lake



## Water Kennecott Discharges

- Excess tailings pond decant water (7,000 – 20,000 ac-ft/yr)
  - Mine dewatering
  - Storm water
  - Groundwater remediation
  - Imported water
- Wetlands discharges
- Excess imported water





012 (Tailings Decant, Primary Outfall)

008 (Wetlands Discharge)

004 (Wetlands  
Discharge,  
Excess Import)



## Regulation of Pollutants

- Regulated pollutants based on an assessment of reasonable potential for constituents that could exceed pertinent standards, a process that is governed by regulation
- Longer list of regulated pollutants at the tailings impoundment discharge in the past—collection of data indicated that certain of the pollutants were not found in the discharge

## Foundation for Effluent Limitations

- EPA Effluent Guidelines for the Ore Mining and Dressing Point Source Category
- EPA Effluent Guidelines for Nonferrous Metals Manufacturing Point Source Category
- Utah Secondary Treatment Standards
- Utah Water Quality Standards
- Best Professional Judgment
- Site Specific Study

## Outfall 012 Effluent Limitations

- Regulated Pollutants
  - Total Suspended Solids
  - Arsenic
  - Cadmium
  - Copper
  - Lead
  - Mercury
  - Zinc
  - Selenium
  - Cyanide
  - pH
  - Oil and Grease

## Regarding Regulation of Water Quality in Great Salt Lake, Kennecott

- Has confidence in the Division of Water Quality programs and staff,
- Believes allowing properly regulated discharges provides an important societal benefit,
- Supports adoption of numeric standards, *provided* site-specific chemical conditions and biota are considered,
- Believes that standards should be based on protection of ecosystem at a population level,

## Regarding Regulation of Water Quality in Great Salt Lake, Kennecott

- Is concerned about the steep cost of developing site-specific standards,
- Believes that non-point sources need balanced consideration if loading reductions ever required, and
- Cautions against emotional calls for ultra-conservatism: mandated treatment should have a clear and scientifically demonstrable ecological benefit.